

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

State Clearinghouse # 2006052135

June 2006

Lead Agency



State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Acquisition and Development Division

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: **WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**
 BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:

The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration was made available throughout the 30-day public review period at the reference desks of the Santa Cruz Central Branch and Boulder Creek public libraries. It was also available at the public information desks of DPR's Santa Cruz District Headquarters office, Big Basin Redwoods State Park Headquarters, and Northern Service Center. It was also published on the DPR website. The Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and all supporting materials will be available, by request, at DPR's Northern Service Center office, One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Make improvements to the water treatment and storage systems at Big Basin Redwoods State Park to protect public health and increase the reliability and quality of the water supply.

- Replace existing Panoramic water storage tank with a steel storage tank with similar capacity. The Panoramic Tank will remain undisturbed in its current condition due to historical significance and be used for water storage for fire emergencies. Install replacement water supply and distribution lines.
- Replace selected pressure regulators, valves, and valve boxes.
- Add fences and locked grates per current federal Department of Homeland Security and California Department of Health Services public safety requirements for water supply facilities.
- Upgrade existing water supply monitoring and alert system including upgraded data connection between the water treatment plant (WTP) and storage facilities, new telemetry monitoring equipment at the WTP, and a data connection between the water plant and maintenance area.
- A new fire suppression line and two new fire hydrants will be installed to service the lower Sky Meadow residence area.
- Replace existing water lines within the upper residence area from the main valve box.
- Replace corroded parts at the WTP and coat primary treatment tank to prevent further corrosion. Upgrade chemical feeding systems and install automatic valves and additional micro-filtration equipment to comply with current California Department of Health Services water quality requirements.
- Rehabilitate WTP enclosure, plumbing, and electrical systems by replacing corroded structural members, providing adequate ventilation, upgrading electrical supply panel, and replace conductors from the pump house distribution panel to the WTP.

FINDINGS

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the proposed project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts and is incorporated in the Draft MND. Based on this Initial Study, it has been determined that the proposed project would not have any significant impacts on the environment, once all proposed

mitigation measures have been implemented. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- There was no potential for adverse impacts on agricultural resources, cultural resources, land use and planning, minerals, population and housing, recreation, or transportation/traffic, associated with the proposed project.
- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the proposed project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: aesthetics, air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and public services.
- Full implementation of the proposed mitigation measures included in this MND would reduce potential project-related adverse impacts on biological resources, geology and soils, and utilities and service systems to a less than significant level.

MITIGATION AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES

The following mitigation measures and project conditions have been incorporated into the scope of work for the Water Supply Improvements Project and will be fully implemented by DPR to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts identified in this MND. These mitigation measures will be included in contract specifications and instructions to DPR personnel involved in implementing the project.

PROJECT CONDITION AIR-1

- All active construction areas will be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions.
- All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All equipment engines will be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 25 miles mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or dust from construction might obscure driver visibility on public roads.
- Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved streets by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other project-related activity will be promptly removed.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1: MARBLED MURRELET

- No project construction-related activities shall occur during the breeding season (March 24 through September 15) in sites located within ¼ mile of potential nesting trees, to avoid direct or indirect (noise) take of marbled murrelets, unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- All construction related activities shall not begin until 2 hours after sunrise and shall cease 2 hours before sunset.
- No trees greater than 12 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) shall be removed as a result of this project.
- All tree removal work will occur between September 1 and February 1 to protect nesting birds, unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Construction personnel will be trained by a DPR-qualified biologist in the life history of the marbled murrelet and its habitat.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2: NESTING RAPTORS

- If construction-related activities are scheduled to begin February 1 through August 31 (nesting season), a focused survey for raptor nests will be conducted by a DPR-qualified biologist during the nesting season to identify active nests within 500 feet of the project area. The survey will be conducted within 30 days prior to the beginning of construction.
- If nesting raptors are found, no construction will occur within a 500-foot radius of the nest tree during the active nesting season of February 1 through August 31, or until the young have fledged (as determined by a DPR-qualified biologist), unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game.
- All tree removal work will occur between September 1 and February 1 to protect nesting raptors, unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-3: MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES

- If construction-related activities are scheduled to begin during the nesting season of March 1 to September 15, a DPR-qualified biologist will conduct a survey for nesting bird species within 14 days prior to commencement of construction at each site to ensure that no nesting birds will be impacted by the project. The survey area will include the project site and at least a 100-foot zone around it.
- If active nests are located, all construction disturbance activities within a 100-foot radius (or as negotiated with DFG on a case-by-case basis, based upon species and location of nest) of the nest tree shall be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged and when there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.
- All tree removal work will occur between September 1 and February 1 to protect nesting birds, unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-4: COAST HORNED LIZARD

- A morning site inspection for coast horned lizards will be conducted by a DPR-qualified biologist prior to the start of construction each day that construction is scheduled in coast horned lizard habitat.
- If a coast horned lizard is found within the project area, construction in that location will cease until the animal has moved out of the construction area of its own accord, or is removed from the site by a qualified biologist.
- Construction activity within coast horned lizard habitat will also be spot checked during the work day by a DPR-qualified biologist.
- Project excavations will be covered at night with plastic, or another approved method that prevents animals from being trapped.
- Construction personnel will be instructed by a DPR-qualified biologist in the life history of the coast horned lizard and its habitat.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-5: SANTA CRUZ KANGAROO RAT

- A morning site inspection for the Santa Cruz kangaroo rat will be conducted by a DPR-qualified biologist prior to the start of construction each day that construction is scheduled in Santa Cruz kangaroo rat habitat.
- If a Santa Cruz kangaroo rat is found within the project area, construction in that location will cease until the animal has moved out of the construction area of its

own accord, unless otherwise negotiated with the California Department of Fish and Game.

- Construction activity within Santa Cruz kangaroo rat habitat will also be spot checked during the workday by a DPR-qualified biologist.
- Project excavations will be covered at night with plastic, or another approved method that prevents animals from being trapped.
- Construction personnel will be instructed by a DPR-qualified biologist in the life history of the Santa Cruz kangaroo rat and its habitat.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-6: CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

- Immediately prior to the start of work each morning, a USFWS-approved biologist or DPR-qualified biologist will conduct a visual inspection of the construction zone, prior to the start of work.
- Construction activity within the project site will also be spot checked during the workday by a USFWS- approved biologist or a DPR-qualified biologist.
- If a California red-legged frog is found, start of work at that project site would be delayed until the species moves out of the site on it own accord, or is temporarily relocated by a USFWS-approved biologist.
- Project excavations will be covered at night with plastic, or another approved method that prevents animals from being trapped.
- Construction personnel will be instructed by a qualified biologist in the life history of the California red-legged frog and its habitat, and instruction in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a California red-legged frog is found onsite.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-7: SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

- Within the root health zone (5 times dbh) of any native tree with a dbh of 24 inches or greater, no roots with a diameter of one inch or greater will be cut.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-1: HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Prior to the start of construction the road will be flagged by the DPR archaeologist assigned to the project to insure the resource is identifiable to construction workers. The operation of heavy equipment will not be allowed on the grade and it will not be used as a staging area for construction supplies.
- During construction activities, a DPR-qualified archaeologist will monitor all ground disturbing activities in the Upper Residence including the vicinity of the grade.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-2: HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Measures will be taken to properly record the Panoramic Tank prior to abandonment, including the production of as-built drawings.
- Future use in another capacity (water storage for fire emergencies) will be facilitated by the district. This would aid in the process of slowing down the decay.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-3: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- All ground disruption including but not limited to trenching, excavation, and the use of heavy equipment will be monitored by a DPR-qualified archaeologist in the Upper and Lower Residence areas, and the Panoramic Tank area.
- No ground disturbing activities including the operation of heavy equipment will be allowed north of the cement retaining wall behind the structures located on the north side of the road in the Upper Residence area.

- The DPR archaeologist assigned to the project will be notified a minimum of three weeks prior to the start of ground disturbing activities (in culturally sensitive areas that require archaeological monitoring) to schedule and conduct monitoring.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-4: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Road preparation for transport of the new tank to the installation site adjacent to the Panoramic Tank will not include widening or leveling the historic road grade.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-5: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- All staging areas will be pre-approved by the DPR cultural resources specialist assigned to the project.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-6: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- In the event that previously unknown cultural resources (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flakes stone, ground stone, or deposits of historic trash) are encountered during project construction by anyone, the state representative will put work on hold at that specific location and contractors will be redirected to other tasks. A DPR-qualified archaeologist will record and evaluate the find and work with the state representative to implement avoidance, preservation, and recovery measures as appropriate prior to any work resuming at that specific location.
- If significant cultural resources are found during construction activities, a DPR-qualified historian, archaeologist and/or Native American representative (if appropriate) will monitor all subsurface work including trenching, grading, and excavation in the area of the find.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-7: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Any design changes or expansion of the project that will include additional ground disturbing activities will be approved by the DPR cultural resource specialist/s assigned to the project.
- Necessary changes in design will be reported in a timely manner to the cultural resource specialist/s so appropriate conditions/mitigations can be implemented prior to the start of construction.

PROJECT CONDITION CULT-8: ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR District Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities.
- If the coroner or tribal representative determines the remains represent Native American interment, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento and/or tribe would be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work would not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (PRC 5097.98). No human remains or

funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination.

- If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site; the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives will also occur as necessary to define mitigation measures or future restrictions.

MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1: SEISMIC BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

- The proposed water tank must conform to earthquake design requirements. Tank and foundation design will follow the applicable regulations and design practices of the American Water Works Association Design Standards.
- Any new equipment installed as part of the water system treatment upgrades would be secured to the walls and/or floor in the existing water treatment building to prevent damage in the event of a large earthquake.
- State Park staff would inspect the water supply system for damage as soon as feasible after a large earthquake.

PROJECT CONDITION GEO-1: EROSION CONTROL

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used in all areas to control soil and surface water runoff during excavation, grading, and trenching. Whenever possible grading and excavation activities will not be planned during the rainy season (October 15 to April 15), but if storms are anticipated during construction or if construction must occur during the wet season, "winterizing" will occur, including the covering (tarping) of any stockpiled soils and the use of temporary erosion control methods to protect disturbed soil. Temporary erosion control measures (BMPs) will be used during all soil disturbing activities and until all disturbed soil has been stabilized (re-compacted, re-vegetated, etc.) These BMPs will include, but not be limited to, the use of silt fences, straw bales, or straw or rice coir rolls, to prevent soil loss and siltation into nearby water bodies.
- Permanent BMPs for erosion control will consist of properly compacting disturbed areas and re-vegetation of appropriate disturbed soil areas with native species using seed collected locally. Final design plans will include BMP measures to be incorporated into the project.

PROJECT CONDITION HAZMAT-1: POLLUTION PREVENTION

- All equipment will be inspected by the contractor for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly inspected thereafter until equipment is removed from Park premises.
- The contractor(s) will prepare an emergency Water Pollution Control Plan prior to the start of construction and maintain a spill kit on-site throughout the life of the project. This plan will include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment may occur. Areas designated for refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment shall be at least 50 feet from any creeks. In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form at the project site or within the boundaries of Big Basin Redwoods State Park during construction, the contractor would immediately notify the appropriate DPR staff (e.g., project manager, supervisor, or State Representative).

- Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside the Park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be disposed of outside Park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
- Dust generated by any surface preparation work will be contained indoors. Workers will use appropriate personal protection gear compliant with Cal/OSHA standards.

PROJECT CONDITION HAZMAT-2

A Worker Safety Plan will be developed and reviewed by all project staff prior to the start of any work. Job site characteristics to reduce the potential for fire would be included such as, but not limited to, those discussed below:

- Spark arrestors or turbo-charging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust) and fire extinguishers would be required for all heavy equipment.
- Construction crews would be required to park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass and brush. At the end of each workday, heavy equipment would be parked over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire.
- The Worker Safety Plan will provide guidelines for the proper use, storage, and disposal of any flammable materials used during the project work.

PROJECT CONDITION HYDRO-1: WATER QUALITY

- Implementation of Project Condition **GEO-1** will provide Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and runoff during project construction and post-construction into nearby creeks.
- Implementation of Project Condition **HAZMAT-1** will reduce impacts to water quality from possible pollutants (fuels and other vehicle fluids released from vehicles and heavy equipment during construction).

PROJECT CONDITION NOISE-1

- Construction activities will generally be limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., daily.
- Internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site will be equipped with an exhaust muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for construction will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever feasible and necessary.
- Stationary noise sources and staging areas will be located as far from Park visitors as possible. If they must be located near visitors, stationary noise sources will be muffled to the extent feasible and/or, where practicable, located within temporary noise reducing enclosures.

No corrections, additions, and deletions have been made to the Water Supply Improvements Draft MND. No comments were received.

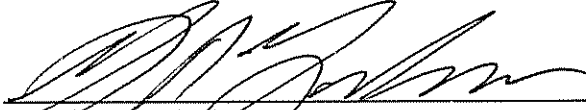
This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH# 2006052135); Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and the Notice of Determination, constitute the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Water Supply Improvements Project at Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.



Gail Sevens
Environmental Coordinator, Acquisition & Development Division
California Department of Parks & Recreation

6/27/06
Date



Stephen R. Lehman
Deputy Director, Acquisition & Development Division
California Department of Parks & Recreation

7/3/06
Date